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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0208
INFO RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 0203
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 0031
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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SIPDIS
STATE INR/R/MR
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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [BR](#) [XM](#) [XR](#) [KMDR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. BASES IN COLOMBIA

"Drugs, the Real Enemy"

Article in circulation leader and liberal Folha de S. Paulo (11-14) by Clovis Rossi states: "If Brazil really wants to help Colombia and Venezuela reach an understanding for joint surveillance of their borders....[Brazil] has to begin to understand clearly what is happening in the border areas.....The problem of the Colombia-Venezuela border is not military or diplomatic. It is one of delinquency.... [and] the problem in Colombia is not just internal. Drug trafficking is only less globalized than financial transactions. It is not going to be solved without coordinated action at least in the regional arena, the only area where Brazil may have a leadership role.....The war threats that Chavez has directed against Colombia.....is a choice made against the wrong target.....The enemy is not U.S. bases in Colombia, but the uncounted bases - and soldiers - of the drug traffickers in all Latin American countries."
White